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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Continuity To Be Primary Theme
in Polish Pre-Congress Preparations

The key speeches at last week's plenum of the Polish party Central Committee suggest that Warsaw will stress political continuity and cautious economic optimism as preparations continue for the seventh party congress which meets on December 8.

Party leader Gierek and Prime Minister Jaroszewicz played on familiar themes that contained no hints of major shifts in Gierek's economic strategy or of a shakeup in his leadership team.

As he often does, Gierek referred proudly to the accomplishments of the Polish economy since he came to power. He observed that the country had been in a "very difficult situation" in 1970 and that "we led Poland out of those difficulties...we have overcome them." He acknowledged, however, that "steep" increases in prices of imports and the poor harvests of the last two years had posed serious problems for the economy. On Saturday, Prime Minister Jaroszewicz frankly admitted at a harvest festival in Koszalin that this year's grain harvest would fall short of last year's harvest by two million tons.

Gierek promised that improvement in the standard of living would be the "overriding" aim of his policies, but warned that demands for housing and consumer goods--including meat--could not be quickly satisfied. He hinted that something might have to be done about the prices of basic food items, which have held constant since 1970, when he said that price stability had been accomplished only "at the cost of great efforts."

The only novelty contained in the plenum's foreign policy pronouncements was a mild endorsement

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of Moscow's position that "the time has come to prepare a new world conference of the communist movement."

Gierek dwelt less extensively on internal party affairs. He predictably cited the party as the "motive force" of Polish development. He also called for a "new impetus" in the ideological training of young people, but such calls are generally little more than lip-service to Soviet demands for tighter ideological discipline.

During the next three months there will be numerous public meetings to discuss the Theses of the congress, which have been entitled "For A Dynamic Development of Socialist Building-For A Higher Quality of Work And Living Conditions." The population in general, however, will be concentrating on how well the government is able to overcome shortages of food and other consumer items.

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Romania: Risky Relations with China

Romania is demonstrating its continuing close ties with Peking, perhaps in reaction to fresh assaults on the Chinese by the Kremlin.

Ilie Verdet, a member of the Romanian Politburo and party secretary for cadre affairs, unexpectedly arrived in Peking on Friday at the head of the highest level Romanian delegation that has visited China since President Ceausescu was there in 1971. The Romanians were en route home from North Vietnam's 30th anniversary celebrations.

In Peking, Verdet specifically praised the leadership of Mao Tse-tung and emphasized the good relations between the Romanian and Chinese parties. Both sides pledged to expand their ties. On Sunday, Verdet met with Chou En-lai to convey Ceausescu's personal greetings and best wishes to the Chinese leadership.

The timing of the visit suggests that it was a calculated act of defiance of Moscow. It comes on the heels of an authoritative and very harsh attack on China and its supporters in the Soviet party's theoretical journal, *Kommunist*. Indeed, *Kommunist* warned that those who are neutral or conciliatory toward Mao and his policies "objectively promote the anti-Marxist, anti-socialist aims of the Chinese leadership."

Verdet's presence in China puts Moscow on notice that Romania clearly intends to oppose any criticism of the Chinese, or any attempt to read them out of the international communist movement at the proposed conference of European communist parties.

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Ceausescu has in the past demonstrated a remarkable ability to gauge the limits of Soviet tolerance to his displays of independence. After the Verdet trip, he may now pull in his horns and, at least over the short run, become more accommodating toward Moscow--without, however, compromising what he regards as the principles of Romania's independence within the bloc.

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Apparent Dolgikh Protege Takes
Over Prices Committee

The recent appointment of Nikolay T. Glushkov as chairman of the State Committee on Prices (August 22) fills one of two key government posts that have been vacant since the Supreme Soviet meeting in June 1974. There is still no chairman of the State Committee for Labor and Wages.

Unlike his predecessor, Vladimir Sitnin--a career financial official--Glushkov has a limited amount of experience that is relevant to his new position. He was formerly the deputy minister of nonferrous metallurgy (1973-75) and head of the ministry's planning and economic department (1968-73). Perhaps his key asset is his long-time association with party secretary for heavy industry Vladimir Dolgikh in Krasnoyarsky Kray, where both men spent most of their careers. As deputy chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Sovnarkhoz (economic region) during the early 1960s, Glushkov probably oversaw the work of the huge Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine, then headed by Dolgikh. Later Dolgikh outranked his mentor, but a political tie between the two may still exist.

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CHRONOLOGY

September 2 Soviet delegation--led by Politburo candidate-member Solomentsev--in Hanoi for North Vietnam's 30th anniversary meets with Cambodian leaders Khieu Samphan and Norodom Sihanouk.

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[redacted]
Rude Pravo tersely announces the resignation of Miroslav Moc as its editor-in-chief and the at least temporary designation of Czechoslovak party secretary Svestka as his successor. [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted] the USSR has recently sent 200 to 300 personnel to Laos to further Soviet aid projects there. [redacted]

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USSR informs UN Secretary General Waldheim that it will not send a representative to the signature of a second-stage Sinai agreement at Geneva on Thursday. [redacted]

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Politburo member Mazurov leads dignitaries at the official observance in Moscow of the 30th anniversary of the defeat of Japan. [redacted]

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Turkish Prime Minister Demirel confers with visiting Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov; a bilateral judicial assistance agreement is signed. [redacted]

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September 3 Defense Minister Grechko officially marks the 30th anniversary of victory over Japan, asserting that Soviet forces "played the decisive role." [redacted]

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September 3 Soviet UN delegate Malik addresses the special session of the General Assembly, promoting the CSCE results and Soviet disarmament initiatives.

Romanian Deputy Premier Niculescu concludes an official visit to Syria.

Senegalese President Senghor concludes a five-day, state visit to Yugoslavia.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi receives a "lengthy" message from Foreign Minister Gromyko concerning the second-stage Sinai agreement.

Chinese conduct their annual wreath-layings to honor Soviet soldiers who died liberating China from Japanese control.

Romanian party secretary Andrei concludes a visit to Portugal after meetings with Socialist leader Soares, President Costa Gomes, and Communist party chief Cunhal.

September 4 Egyptian President Sadat publicly excoriates the Soviets as "Satans" for misleading Arab states into condemning the second-stage Sinai agreement.

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September 4

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Wife of prominent Soviet dissident physicist Sakharov undergoes surgery for advanced glaucoma in Siena, Italy.

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Izvestia warns Portuguese Socialists to "benefit by the lessons of Chile," noting that a counter-revolution in Portugal "will not stop half-way."

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Agriculture Secretary Butz announces a deferral of further grain sales to the USSR pending a resumption of the handling of shipments by US maritime unions.

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Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov concludes his official visit to Turkey after an unexpected, second meeting with Prime Minister Demirel in Ankara.

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Minister of Communications Psurtsev, in that post since 1948, is replaced by his first deputy Nikolay Talyzin.

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Hungary and Panama agree to establish diplomatic relations.

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Foreign Minister Gromyko confers with visiting Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek.

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Czechoslovak Premier Strougal concludes an official visit to Romania.

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September 4 Polish Central Committee convenes to discuss guidelines for the party congress to be held in December. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Czechoslovak tennis star Martina Navratilova seeks political asylum in the US. [REDACTED]

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Communist-front World Peace Council convenes a three-day meeting in Havana on solidarity with the "fight for independence of Puerto Rico." [REDACTED]

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Crowd attending the Jewish New Year service in Moscow is only about one third that of last year; one minor incident mars the proceedings. [REDACTED]

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US and the USSR resume their negotiations in Moscow regarding peaceful nuclear explosion devices. [REDACTED]

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September 6 Politburo candidate-member Solomentsev returns to Moscow from an official visit to North Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Red Star reports the death of Rear Admiral Solovyov, a senior official in the central command of the Soviet navy, "in the performance of his service duties." [REDACTED]

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September 7 Romanian party secretary Andrei begins an official visit to Angola and meets with MPLA leader Neto. [REDACTED]

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Romanian party secretary Verdet stops in Peking en route home from Hanoi, and meets with Chou En-lai. [REDACTED]

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Canadian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Jerome begins a nine-day, official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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Pravda blasts the ouster of General Goncalves, terming it an attempt "to push Portugal off the revolutionary path." [REDACTED]

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East German Politburo member Hager makes a brief, official visit to the USSR en route home from North Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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September 8 Politburo member Polyansky is the principal Soviet attendee at the Moscow observance of North Korea's 27th anniversary. [REDACTED]

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Soviet-Japanese fisheries negotiations resume in Moscow; the session is scheduled to last four days. [REDACTED]

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Premier Kosygin confers with visiting French Minister of Industry d'Ornano. [REDACTED]

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Yugoslav parliamentary delegation arrives in Panama for talks on political, economic, and cultural matters. [REDACTED]

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Politburo candidate member Rashidov begins an official visit to Bulgaria. [REDACTED]

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September 9 US and the USSR resume talks in Moscow on the rate to be charged for shipping US grain and other cargoes to the USSR on US vessels. [REDACTED]

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FUTURE EVENTS

September 10 An exhibit of abstract art to open in Leningrad with official permission, but only local artists are to be allowed to display their works. [REDACTED]

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September 15 US and Soviet delegates to meet in London to consider issues affecting nuclear-supplier states. [REDACTED]

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mid-September Syrian President Asad to make a state visit to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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Foreign Minister Gromyko to arrive in New York to attend the general debate opening the annual fall session of the UN General Assembly. [REDACTED]

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September 16 UK Prime Minister Wilson to commence a three-day, official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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Syrian Defense Minister Talas to begin an official visit to Hungary. [REDACTED]

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Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to make an official visit to Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

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September 20 A large display of abstract art to open in Moscow with official permission; the exhibit will run eleven days and is to be open only to local artists.

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US astronauts Stafford, Brand, and Slayton to begin an official visit to the USSR.

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September 21 Polish Agriculture Minister Barcikowski to begin an eight-day, official visit to the US.

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September 22 Portuguese President Costa Gomes to begin a five-day, state visit to the USSR followed by one to Poland.

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FRG Christian Democratic party leader Kohl to begin a one-week visit to the USSR.

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Polish Defense Minister Jaruzelski to make an official visit to Norway.

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September 27 International convention regulating ocean dumping, cosponsored by the US, the UK, and the USSR, to enter into force.

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late September Yugoslav chief of staff Potocar to make an official visit to the USSR.

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October 8 Romanian President Ceausescu to arrive in Canada for a four-day, state visit.

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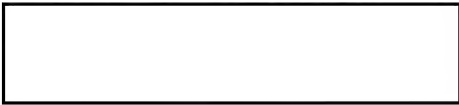
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